

UPI-103

ADD 3 DEFENSE

JOHNSON AND SEN. STUART SYMINGTON (D-MO.) FIRED QUESTIONS AT GATES.

THE SECRETARY TOLD JOHNSON THAT IT WOULD BE "A QUESTION FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE" AS TO WHETHER THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD SPEND ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR SPECIFIC WEAPONS IF CONGRESS PROVIDES IT. GATES SAID HE WAS SURE NEITHER CONGRESS NOR THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD HESITATE TO SPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS IF REQUIRED.

GATES ALSO TOLD JOHNSON THAT HE IS IN JOHNSON'S WORD, "CONTEMPLATING" THE EXPENDITURE OF MORE FUNDS FOR LONG -RANGE MISSILES AND POLARIS SUBMARINES. BUT HE SAID HE WAS "REVIEWING" THE QUESTION AND IS "NOT IN A POSITION TO PROPOSE IT" YET.

SYMINGTON, PREFACING HIS QUESTIONS WITH THE STATEMENT THAT CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR ALLEN W. DULLES PRESENTED "THE REVERSE" OF A NARROWING MISSILE GAP, AGAIN TRIED TO GET RATIOS ON MISSILE STRENGTH FROM GATES.

GATES AGAIN DECLINED AND SAID, "I THINK THAT THE RATIOS ARE ALL MISLEADING, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANNOUNCE THEM IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT ADD TO THE CONFUSION."

GATES ALSO TOLD SEN. E. L. BARTLETT (D-ALASKA) THAT THE DECISION TO DELAY THE B-70 DEVELOPMENT WAS "VERY DIFFICULT." IN AN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THE DELAY IN THE B-70 PROGRAM, SYMINGTON HAD SAID HE COULDN'T SEE HOW THE RELATIVE LOW-SPEED POLARIS SUBMARINE SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND THE B-70 SPEEDING "MANY THOUSANDS OF MILES AN HOUR" SHOULD BE JUNKED.

GATES SAID HE THOUGHT SYMINGTON WAS COMPARING APPLES AND ORANGES.